

Message Text

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R 041548Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO MR HENRY W GADSDEN, CHAIRMAN
MERCK AND CO
126 EAST LINCOLN AVENUE, RAHWAY, NEW JERSEY
TEL: 201/574-4000
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6585
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1266

USDOC FOR DIBA/OIM/MCCOWEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP SY

SUBJ: DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARD W MURPHY

DEAR MR GADSDEN:

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INVITE YOUR COMPANY TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE UNITED STATES PAVILION AT THE 23RD DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL
FAIR, TO BE HELD JULY 25 TO AUGUST 20, 1976 IN DAMASCUS,
SYRIA. LAST YEAR'S EXHIBITION WAS MOST SUCCESSFUL, WITH
23 AMERICAN FIRMS -- MANY OF THEM NEW TO THE RAPIDLY GROWING
SYRIAN MARKET -- PARTICIPATING. OFF-FLOOR SALES TOTALED
NEARLY \$4 MILLION, WITH 2,330 REPORTED SALES LEADS AND
12-MONTH EXPECTED SALES OF OVER \$18 MILLION. MORE
THAN 1.7 MILLION VISITORS THROGGED THE US. PAVILION,
TESTIFYING TO THE STRONG INTEREST OF THE SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC IN AMERICAN GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH SYRIA HAS GROWN RAPIDLY FOLLOWING
THE RESTORATION OF DIPLO
MATIC RELATIONS IN JUNE 1974.

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US EXPORTS TO SYRIA IN 1975 TOTALED ABOUT \$127 MILLION,

MORE THAN FOUR TIMES THE 1974 FIGURE; WE EXPECT 1976 EXPORTS TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THE IMPRESSIVE 1975 FIGURE. THE ANNOUNCED 1976 SYRIAN BUDGET OF \$4.5 BILLION INCLUDES \$2.9 BILLION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES; SYRIA'S FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN (1976-1980) CALLS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL EXPENDITURES OF \$16.4 BILLION, MOSTLY IN LARGE CAPITAL PROJECTS. THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY STATED ITS STRONG DESIRE THAT AMERICAN FIRMS PLAY A MUCH LARGER ROLE IN REALIZING ITS PLANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE HAVE REESTABLISHED AN AID PROGRAM IN SYRIA, WITH AGREEMENTS TOTALLING \$83 MILLION ALREADY SIGNED IN FY 1975 AND \$90 MILLION REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS IN EACH OF FY 1976 AND FY 1977, AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT US FIRMS.

THE DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR OFFERS THE BEST SINGLE OPPORTUNITY FOR US MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS TO INTRODUCE THEIR GOODS AND SERVICES INTO SYRIA, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO THOUSANDS OF FAIR VISITORS FROM THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.

GOODS MAY BE EXHIBITED DUTY-FREE AND IMPORT LICENSES ARE GUARANTEED FOR GOODS SOLD AT THE FAIR, THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS AGREED, AS IN 1975, TO PARTIALLY SUPPORT AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE FAIR WITH FUNDS AND WITH A FULL-TIME EXHIBITION DIRECTOR, WHO WILL ARRIVE IN DAMASCUS ON MAY 1.

I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU OR YOU MAY CONTACT W. BRADLEY TYRREL, CHIEF, COMMERCIAL PRESENCE FAIRS, OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL MARKETING, DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, TEL. 202/967-4304/5, OR EXHIBITION DIRECTOR RONALD E. MCCOWEN AT THE SAME NUMBER. AFTER HEARING FROM YOU, WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS CONCERNING PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS AND COSTS, CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT 3X4 METER BOOTH RENTAL OF \$2,000 TO \$2,300 AND OUTDOOR SPACE AT \$15/SQ. METER.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT, NOT ONLY TO INSURE A
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SUCCESSFUL AMERICAN EXHIBITION AT THE FAIR, BUT TO CONTINUE THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE UNITED STATES.

SINCERELY, /S/ RICHARD W. MURPHY, AMBASSADOR
MURPHY

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